IN THE CLAIMS:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

1.   (Currently Amended) A system for facilitating the exchange of data between ~~one or more users and~~ a web service ~~via~~ and one or more instant messaging clients, comprising:

a processor ~~that receives and processes~~ configured to:

receive a user command created using ~~from a user of~~ a first instant messaging client for a first time, and

generate linking information that links the user command to a corresponding web service command format associated with the web service ~~and generates a web service command corresponding to the user command~~;

a database that stores the linking information ~~linking the user command to a web service command format~~;

the processor further configured to:

receive, after the linking information is generated and stored in the database, the user command for a second time together with one or more parameters to be included in a web service command associated with the web service, and

generate the web service command including the one or more parameters and corresponding to the user command in the web service command format based on the stored linking information;

a web services engine that sends the web service command to the web service that executes the web service command, and receives information associated with the executed web service command from the web service, ~~to cause transmission of~~

wherein the system is configured to send the received information from the web service to at least one other ~~user via a second~~ instant messaging client.

2.   (Cancelled) ~~The system according to claim 1, wherein the web services engine is configured to receive a message from the web service in response to the web service command.~~

3.   (Previously Presented) The system according to claim 1, wherein the web services engine is configured to locate a web services description language file.

4.   (Previously Presented) The system according to claim 1, wherein the web services engine is configured to retrieve a web service address.

5.   (Previously Presented) The system according to claim 1, wherein the web services engine is configured to retrieve the web service command format.

6.   (Currently Amended) The system according to claim 1, wherein the processor is configured to ~~link the~~ generate linking information that links the user command to a web service description language file.

7.   (Currently Amended) The system according to claim 1, wherein the processor is configured to ~~link the~~ generate linking information that links the user command to the web service and the web service command format.

8.   (Previously Presented) The system according to claim 1, wherein the database is configured to store user information, the user information comprises at least one of user identification or user password.

9.   (Previously Presented) The system according to claim 1, wherein the database is ~~configured to store user privileges information.~~

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10.   (Currently Amended) The system according to claim 1, wherein the linking information linking that links the user command to a the web service command format stored in the database comprises a web services description language file location.

11.   (Currently Amended) The system according to claim 1, wherein the linking information linking that links the user command to a the web service command format stored in the database comprises the web service's address.

12.   (Currently Amended) The system according to claim 1, wherein the linking information linking that links the user command to a the web service command format stored in the database comprises a web service description language file name.

13.   (Cancelled)

14.   (Original) The system according to claim 1, wherein the web service is associated with an enterprise system.

15.   (Original) The system according to claim 1, wherein the web service is associated with a legacy system.

16.   (Previously Presented) The system according to claim 1, further comprising a security and provisioning engine and the security and provisioning engine is configured to retrieve security information.

17.   (Previously Presented) The system according to claim 16, wherein the security information includes user privileges information.

18.   (Previously Presented) The system according to claim 17, wherein the user privileges information is used for accessing at least one of an enterprise system or a legacy system.

19.   (Previously Presented) The system according to claim 1, wherein the system interfaces with a remote database including user security information.

20.   (Original) The system according to claim 19, wherein the remote database including the user security information includes a directory that has information relating to user privileges.

21.   (Currently Amended) A computer-implemented method that facilitates the exchange of data between ~~one or more users and~~ one or more web services ~~via~~ and one or more instant messaging clients, comprising the steps of:

receiving a user command created using ~~from a user of~~ a first instant messaging client for a first time;

generating, via a processor, linking information that links the user command to a web service command format, where the web service command format is associated with a web service;

storing the linking information in a database;

receiving via the processor, after the linking information is generated and stored in the database, the user command for a second time together with one or more parameters to be included in a web service command associated with the web service;

generating, via the processor, ~~a corresponding~~ the web service command including the one or more parameters and corresponding to the user command ~~based on~~ in the web service command format based on the stored linking information;

~~sending the generated corresponding web service command to the web service; and~~

transmitting information from the web service in response to the web service command to at least one other ~~user via a second~~ instant messaging client.

22.   (Currently Amended) The method according to claim 21, wherein <u>generating the</u> linking <u>information that links</u> ~~of~~ the user command to ~~a~~ web service command format comprises <u>generating</u> linking <u>information that links</u> the user command to a web service description language file.

23.   (Currently Amended) The method according to claim 21, wherein <u>generating the</u> linking ~~of~~ <u>that links</u> the user command to ~~a~~ <u>the</u> web service command format comprises locating the web service's address.

24.   (Original) The method according to claim 23, wherein the web service address is a URL address.

25.   (Original) The method according to claim 21, further comprising receiving a message from the web service.

26.   (Original) The method according to claim 25, wherein the message received from the web service is a response message.

27.   (Currently Amended) The method according to claim 25, further comprising sending the message from the web service to ~~the~~ one or more users <u>associated with the one or more instant messaging clients</u>.

28.   (Original) The method according to claim 21, wherein the web service is associated with an enterprise system.

~~29.   (Original) The method according to claim 21, wherein the web service is~~ associated with a legacy system.

30.   (Original) The method according to claim 21, further comprising storing user information.

31.   (Currently Amended) The method according to claim 30, wherein the stored user information includes user command information for at least one of ~~the~~ one or more users associated with the one or more instant messaging clients.

32.   (Cancelled)

33.   (Original) The method according to claim 21, further comprising parsing security information to determine a user's access rights to the web service.

34.   (Original) The method according to claim 33, wherein the security information is stored in a database.

35.   (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 34, wherein the database includes a directory including information relating to user privileges for accessing enterprise or legacy systems.

36.   (Currently Amended) A program storage device readable by a machine, tangibly embodying a program of instructions executable by a machine to perform method steps of exchanging data between ~~one or more users and~~ a web service and ~~via~~ one or more instant messaging clients, the method steps comprising:

    receiving an instant messaging message created ~~by a user~~ using a first instant messaging client, the instant messaging message comprising a user command that is received for a first time;

    ~~identifying a web service description language file associated with the user command instant messaging message;~~

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identifying a web service listed in the web service description language file that is ~~linked to~~ associated with the <u>user command</u> ~~instant messaging message~~;

<u>generating linking information that links the user command to a corresponding web service command format associated with the identified web service;</u>

<u>storing the linking information in a database;</u>

<u>receiving, after the linking information is generated and stored in the database, the user command for a second time together with one or more parameters to be included in a web service message associated with the web service;</u>

<u>generating the web service message comprising a web service command corresponding to the user command in the web service command format based on the stored linking information, wherein the web service command includes the one or more parameters;</u>

sending ~~a~~ <u>the</u> web service message ~~that is associated with the instant messaging message~~ to the web service according to information provided in the web service description language file; and

transmitting information from the web service in response to the web service message to at least one other ~~user via a second~~ instant messaging client.

37.   (Cancelled)

38.   (Original) The program storage device according to claim 36, further comprising receiving a message from a web service.

39.   (Original) The program storage device according to claim 38, wherein the message from the web service is in response to the web service message.

40.   (Original) The program storage device according to claim 38, wherein the ~~message from the web service is forwarded to one or more users.~~

41.   (Original) The program storage device according to claim 36, further comprising storing user information.

42.   (Previously Presented) The program storage device according to claim 36, wherein the web service is associated with at least one of an enterprise system or a legacy system.

43-52. (Cancelled)

53.   (Currently Amended) The system according to claim 1, wherein ~~the~~ a user associated with the first instant messaging client directly transmits the information received from the web service to ~~the~~ at least one other user via an instant messaging client.

54.   (Cancelled)

55.   (Currently Amended) The system according to claim 1 ~~53~~, wherein ~~the~~ a user associated with the first instant messaging client selects at least one other user to transmit the information received from the web service to.

56.   (Previously Presented) The system according to claim 9, where the system includes a filter configured to prevent users without user privileges from viewing the information.

57.   (Currently Amended) The system according to claim 1, wherein the web service initiates contact with ~~the~~ a user associated with the first instant messaging client without prompting from the user.

58-62. (Cancelled)

63.   (Currently Amended) The system according to claim 9, wherein the ~~means determines~~ the processor is further configured to determine, in accordance with the user privileges information, which user should receive the information from the web service in response to the web service command.